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Bangalore Mirror

Wish you a happy Mahashivaratri

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ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 31 | Min 16 | Humidity 44% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 61,002 | Nifty 17,944 | Gold 56,005 | Silver 65,254 | Dollar 82.77 | Euro 88.26 | GBP 99.31

Public Works Department revising rate of decorative street lights tender from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1,20,000 a pole to favour a few, alleges registered contractors' association

BLINDED BY THE LIGHTS

State exchequer to incur a loss of Rs 1 crore

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Public Works Department (PWD) is supposed to take up infrastructure developmental works across the state and prepare the cost of such developmental works with due diligence.

As per a complaint by the Karnataka PWD Registered Contractors' Association, it seems as though the PWD engineers are not inclined to spend tax-payers' money prudently.

The Karnataka PWD Registered Contractors' Association wrote a letter to the additional chief secretary, Public Works Department, explaining how the PWD executive engineer (electrical) failed to take appropriate measures to avoid wastage of tax-payers' money before floating a tender inviting bidders for installing decorative street light poles.

They have also sent the letter to the PWD secretary and other

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

"Same contractor executing a project in Belagavi at Rs 83,296 a street light pole including GST quoted Rs 1,20,000 excluding GST for Chitradurga division...
— Contractor (on the condition of anonymity)

With 6 lakh cases a month, 2 wheelers lead violations

Biggest danger for pedestrians, cyclists are two wheeler riders violating rules

| Ahna Prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the first month of this year, more than 6 lakh cases were registered against two wheeler vehicles for traffic violations. According to data provided by traffic police, 6,24,154 cases were booked in the city against two-wheelers in January 2023.

Out of this, 3,68,564 cases were recorded against riders without helmets and 87,481 cases against pillion riders without helmets. Two-wheeler violations also include 73,522 illegal parking cases.

According to bicycle mayor Sathya Sankaran, two-wheeler drivers riding on footpaths, illegal parking, along with driving on the wrong side are among the biggest concerns.

"It is mostly because of a lack of enforcement; they know that they can go on the wrong side and nobody will catch them. I find that two-wheeler encroachment of cycle tracks and footpaths is extremely dangerous and so is wrong side parking. They end up driving on the wrong side in the extreme corner. The biggest danger for pedestrians and cyclists are the two wheeler riders violating the rules," he said.

Bengaluru recorded 49,125 cases of two wheeler riders jumping traffic signals, 73,522 cases of wrong parkings, 9,379 cases of defective number plates, and 10,648

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Feminine intersections

Catch a special art show where three Bengalureans have tried to fuse different expressions and interpretations of femininity in an organic way. Anupama Bijur engages with the mundane aspects of her daily life, using humour and satire to open up a world of experiences to the viewers. P Gnana reflects on tender emotions and relationships, particularly those between mother and child, as well as the human-animal connect, while Rajini Rekha translates primordial female energies and their meaning, retelling mythological tales in contemporary context.

Where: Reves Art Gallery, Jayanagar 8th Block;
When: Till February 28, 4 pm onwards

02 Movie under the stars

Love and Friendship are the critical pillars that bring stability and joy in our lives. Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, as part of the ongoing celebration of the Love month, offers you to cherish your treasured relationships as a community in an innovative set up. The mall has organized a special screening of the iconic movie "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" at mall's Algorithm area where you will get to indulge in the movie under the sky amid a lazy and relaxed seating with your favourite buddies or that special someone.

Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Whitefield;
When: February 18; Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 Calling Hemingway fans

Catch 'Old man and the sea', a play based on Ernest Hemingway's novella. This is the story of an epic struggle between an old, seasoned fisherman and the greatest catch of his life. For 84 days he has returned home empty-handed. On the 85th day, he sets out far beyond into the sea and drops his lines. For five days, the old man struggles with the fish, sharks, and the sea, to survive and get back home.

Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: Feb 26, 11 am, 3 30 pm
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

There's something allergic in the air

City doctors report increase in cases of pollen allergies; infection attributed to change in weather conditions

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With the recent surge in temperature, doctors at multiple city hospitals are witnessing an increase in patients with pollen allergies this month. Based on the severity of exposure, bruised skin, swollen eyes, runny and blocked nose, and itchy throat are some of the symptoms that people are walking in with.

Hospitals say they are encountering around 10 cases of pollen allergy on weekly basis and this number is on the rise.

"With the change in weather, dry winds, and pollens in the air, we usually see a spurt in allergies this time of the year in Bengaluru. Allergies can be mostly nasal and respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, itchy throat, and sneezing. Some children are also developing a troublesome cough. There can also be wheezing and asthma symptoms," said Dr Rajath Athreya, Sakra World Hospital Bengaluru

Cases of eye allergies leading to watery, itchy, and red eyes (hay fever) are being reported too.

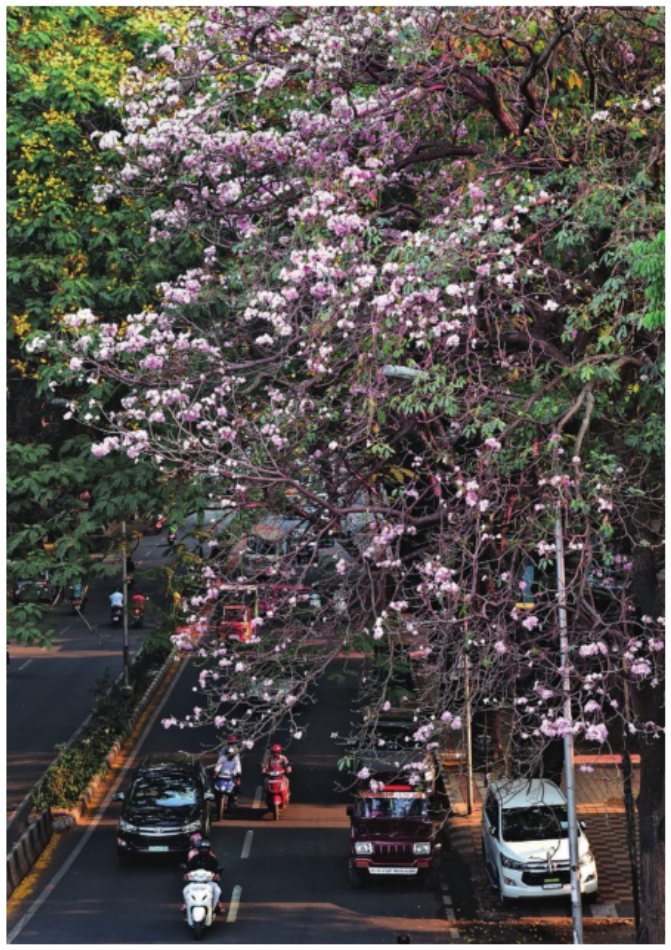
"Poorly managed symptoms disrupt learning and play; poor quality of sleep and more severe respiratory symptoms may result in loss of school days," added Dr Athreya. According to the doctors, pollen-related allergies aggravate during the spring season due to flowering and lack of precautions aggravate the allergic condition. The issue is common in Bengaluru as it has a good green cover with plenty of trees around. Thus, those with pollen allergies should use masks liberally while stepping out.

"If there are lots of Parthenium or other weeds around the houses, people with pollen allergy issues should get them cleaned. Windows should be closed and curtains should be rolled down to prevent pollen burden.

Those suffering from this allergy should also keep the filters of their room air purifiers and air conditioners clean. Gardening activities like weed clearing, lawn mowing, etc. should be avoided in case of allergy symptoms like running nose, sneezing, cough, and breathing issues," said Dr Pavan Yadav, Aster RV hospital.

Taking allergy medications through the season may be needed in some cases too.

"One should look up pollen counts and when it is high, should limit outdoor activities. Changing clothes as soon as your return from outdoors, showering before bedtime, and drying clothes indoors if possible are some of the measures that can be taken to avoid the infection," said a doctor at a city-based private hospital.



Bengaluru's green cover is often a cause for pollen allergies

Wearing masks and keeping surroundings clean can help in keeping allergies at bay

Storm brews on campus regarding fees for shuttle bus

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Students at Azim Premji University have been protesting for five days at the campus against the authorities for imposing fees for shuttle bus services.

The shuttle services were started last year after the students demanded safer transport services between the campus and university-provided hostels and additional security near the external residences. However, the students, including the ones on 100% scholarship, are being asked to pay a fee of Rs 8,500 for the bus services.

"Our seniors had demanded for the shuttle bus services as there were cases of sexual harassment on the roads around the university campus. The campus is located in the remotest area possible and the road is also very unsafe as there are no street lights and you cannot go out after dark," a first-year postgraduate student from Azim Premji University explained.

Currently, the PG students are made to stay outside the campus in external residences, which are located up to 3 km away from the university premises as the university still has not opened its new hostels on campus. The University moved to a new campus in 2020 which is located in a remote and isolated area of Sarjapur, the students said.

In 2022, the demand for the shuttle services started when a female student was allegedly harassed on her way to college.

"The university claims to be inclusive and for everyone to study no matter what financial constraints. But despite claiming to be a student-friendly university they are not responding to our grievances," another student from the university informed Bangalore Mirror.

The students said that they were informed about the additional expense after they completed the admission process.

"Our safety is the university's responsibility and we should not be charged for that... Also, if the shuttle service is temporary until the new hostel is opened, why are they asking the students to pay for just one year as well? They have said that the university cannot bear the cost but why should the students do it?" said a student.

The university provides need-based scholarships to its students, including 100% scholarship if the annual family income of the student is less than Rs. 2 lakhs. The scholarship covers both tuition and accommodation fee. Now the students have staged a protest that the university has been imposing a fee without any prior information about it on the website or offer letter by the university.

The students have boycotted classes and have been demanding the university to waiver the shuttle bus fee. The university registrar has emailed the students to call off the protest and continue with their classes, the students informed.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Plantation owners play with fire

Halanayakanahalli residents act in time to avert major mishap

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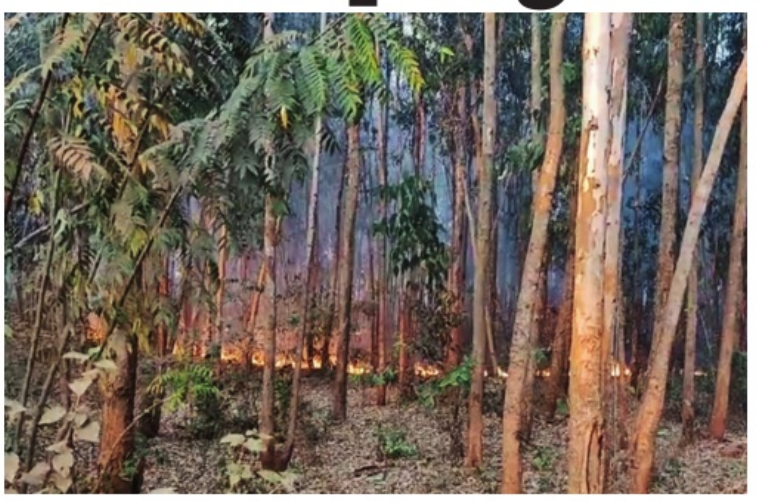
The owners of a private plot consisting of a Eucalyptus plantation near Halanayakanahalli Panchayat were recently burning garbage on their land. The activity led to a mishap with the fire spreading to larger areas and locals having to come forward and douse the flames. Fortunately, due to their immediate intervention, a major accident was prevented.

Residents said that they have noticed plantation owners lighting fires on their land on several occasions. As it is hazardous to public health and the environment, the former had even opposed it. But on Thursday, the fire spread to larger areas and nearly reached a private apartment. Residents took a quick call and used water from nearby tankers to diffuse the same.

A resident of Halenayakanahalli said, "It is a common practice by plantation owners to light fires here, which is against the law. No action is taken against them. When we questioned the owners, they said that the local Panchayat dumps garbage on their private farm, and in order to get rid of the same, they need to light it on fire. It could have led to a bigger accident, but it was luckily stopped in time."

Another resident pointed out that as the fire had not created very high flames, there was no need to call emergency services for help. They decided to douse it themselves before it could get too late and spread further.



The owners of this Eucalyptus plantation were burning garbage on their land; the fire spread to nearby areas but was doused in time

"We brought the fire was under control eventually. However, it kept burning until late at night and there was a lot of smoke even in the morning. It was also smelling. We had to ask guards to monitor the situation," said the resident.

Locals also complained about similar incidents happening across the layout where dumped garbage is burnt later. "There is no proper monitoring or enforcement carried out to stop the burning of garbage. The toxic chemicals released cause long term health problems. It affects people with sensitive respiratory systems, children, and the elderly at large. Over time, it can increase the chances of developing heart diseases, skin problems, liver issues, or even cancer. This is why it is extremely important for authorities to take stern action against such practices and keep a vigil on localities where there is frequent burning of garbage," said another resident.

> **"It is a common practice by plantation owners to light fires here, which is against the law. It could have led to a bigger accident**
>
> – Resident of the area

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RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Wild man blues

I would rather prefer wild abandon and ditch the digital whirlpool. Why allow oneself to be swallowed whole by the big tech demon?

Choices are, the cover of relentless pettifogging around non-issues provided by the pliant broadcast press and the insufferable cacophony of a 'weaponised' social media.

In retrospect, it was indeed a profoundly wise choice of our ancestors to opt for pastoral life rather than being held down by community living now virtually replicated in the digital echo chamber where the weakest pay the highest price.

That's why I envy the shepherd. However, the minimalist vocation of shepherding is now on decline shortchanged by quick fixes of modern civilisation, the lure of the hand held device and digital transformation; besides, more importantly, the fallout of the climate emergency.

Leading the flock through the day, exploring the terrain while livestock graze the pastures and camping at crude makeshift shelters as shepherd dogs stand guard — all that sound ethereal now — descending from the mountains in winter and ascending back up the slopes in spring, for instance, the Gaddis of Himachal Pradesh, lead a life that traverses one of the most challenging geography.

Mindfulness, fitness, nature, yoga, and some of that greenwashing, held up today as factors that 'may contribute to a great lived experience' in our nauseating urban lives could not be more real than the shepherd's routine. I was piqued as I chanced upon a recent photo story in the Guardian that showcased three young Spanish women aspiring to be shepherds in the Pyrenees after they left their city jobs: apparently, there are 'herding schools' that teach shepherding.

Perhaps this explains why shepherding is associated with gods/goddesses and prophets across religions. The aspect now seems light years away from the conundrum that we are caught in today: simply put, this self imposed digital exile where we let ourselves to be manipulated by algorithms, the scale of which is now slowly emerging from the shadows.

A new investigation by a media consortium, published in a few progressive media outlets, has shed more light into the malignancy of tech manipulation that the report says have helped to steal elections. About 30 countries were subjected to targeted social media disinformation campaigns in the run up to elections using fake profiles and so on, including India.

"An unprecedented dive into a world where troll armies, cyber espionage and influencers are intertwined," reads the intro to the investigative story by Forbidden Stories.

While the supporters of ruling dispensation seemed gleeful as the days-long 'income tax survey' wrapped up at the offices of the

BBC, investigative journalism drawing inspiration from the fight of Gauri Lankesh, the journalist who was assassinated in the city in 2017, assumes profound relevance as another assembly election nears.

That Pegasus snooping controversy, where mobile phones of prominent personalities and opinion leaders critical of the Centre were allegedly hacked and the aforementioned investigation by Forbidden Stories on disinformation campaigns to manipulate elections are linked to firms in Israel is curious. These covert operations by countries against their own in cahoots with firms elsewhere raise alarming questions about the future of democracy.

The unprecedented and rapidly evolving dynamics of the socio-tech sphere add to the already existing challenges in the global south like the looming climate 'doom loop' suggested a few days ago in a report published by UK's independent policy institute, Chatham House and the think tank, Institute of Public Policy Research.

The research paper called the scenario "a 'strategic risk' to our collective ability to realise a transformation of societies that ultimately avoids catastrophic climate and ecological change." The report cited 'Africa is losing up to 15% of GDP per capita annually' to the climate crisis. The paper also warned the ensuing effects may overwhelm efforts to meet the 1.5 degree target triggering 'the doom loop', draining resources, and stressed the need to build a consistent narrative.

Has India undertaken economic impact risk assessment surveys? Now, in the most populous nation, do we know how the crisis is affecting communities: the Gaddi shepherds up north in the Himalaya or the fishermen who were protesting against a proposed port in coastal Kerala?

That's why this wayward and worryingly disconnected discourse is untenable: we cannot afford to be lost in just politicking and power play. The west and other emerging economies, meanwhile, are bracing for what's coming.

Our 7,500 km-long coastline, communities that benefit from littoral zones, and the people of the Himalaya at the frontlines of the climate crisis need real assurances alongside long-term policy measures aiding ecosystem-based climate adaptations more than handheld devices or social media profiles.

That said, here we are lost in the most divisive of times, in the 'age of impunity' as the recently released 'abuse of power index' put it, unable to find common ground, bogged by a barrage of sociopolitical inconsistencies.

Won't stop protests till the stench stops

Banashankari residents decide they will withdraw dharna only when BBMP gives it in writing that waste processing plant will be closed

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Residents of Banashankari's 6th Stage have decided to prolong their protest as they still await a response from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on the closure of the waste processing plant in the area. Protesters, mostly senior citizens, gathered near the unit on Friday morning as well and decided to continue the demonstration until they get a written order from the civic body stating that the plant is either being shut down or being moved out of the area.

"The area MLA visited the demonstration site on Thursday and requested us to withdraw the dharna. However, we have decided to continue until the officials concerned from BBMP shares a written order stating that the plant will either be moved to another area or will be shut down," said TS Mahesha, president of Banashankari 6th stage resident welfare organisation.

The protest began on February 14 in response to an unbearable stench emanating from the waste processing unit. While the initial plan was to stage the demonstration for three days, the residents of the area have now decided to make it an indefinite protest now.

BM had reported on Feb 16 about the protest

Demand for closure of the Banashankari waste processing plant gathered steam over the last week as residents seek a solution

According to the residents, the stench from the plant is unbearable and has created an unhygienic condition in the area. Moreover, with the summer season approaching and rainy season following that, they fear for their health.

"We cannot leave our windows and doors open, lest the stench enters our homes followed by the flies. The non-stop stench and unhygienic conditions are leading to health issues among the children and elderly in the area. The situation becomes intolerable during the rainy seasons," said Manjunath Hegde, a senior citizen and a resident who participated in the dharna.

Over a hundred residents gathered on Friday morning (day 4 of the protest) and demanded that the unit be shifted or closed down immediately. The plant is located inside a residential layout with a population of over 10,000 people.

> **"The BBMP has chosen to not reply to the CM's letter sent to them a week ago. We will continue our protest** –TS Mahesha

"The BBMP officials have chosen to not reply to the chief minister's letter that was sent to them a week ago. We have decided to sit near the plant and carry on the demonstration indefinitely. We have been facing difficulties for more than a year now. However, nothing has changed on the ground," said Mahesha.

Fly on, until next time...

A large number of people gathered on the last day of the 14th edition of Asia's largest aero show, Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru on Friday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated it on 13 February.

Today, the people gathered to watch the air show at the Yalahanka air base and were enchanted by the show.

The last day of the air show was open to the general public. People who had gathered even before sunrise eagerly waited for the flight of the metal birds. The show started at 9:30 am.

The Sukhoi and Tejas fighter jets gave a roaring performance that left the audience in awe. The exercise performed by the Sarang and Suryakirana teams thrilled the crowd. The scenes drawn in the sky, attack modes, and escaping near collision in the blink of an eye, were surprising. On this occasion, people celebrated with high cheers.

The mega show saw participation from over 98 countries.

During the event, 73 CEOs from

India and abroad, Defence Ministers from 32 countries and Chiefs of the Air Staff from 29 countries interacted with their Indian counterparts and Government functionaries during the show. —ANI

Check for cruelty: Left to wander forever

Guest workers in city wander from one locality to another after their huts get demolished; relocation promises fall flat

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There seems to be no end to the woes of guest workers or nomads craving for a shelter at the vacant land near Kacharakanahalli Lake. The hapless residents, most of them wandering from one residential locality to another for alms, have been struggling for the last few years to protect themselves from land mafia and insensible revenue authorities.

Around 60 nomad families resided on the vacant land near Kacharakanahalli Lake bund. All these years, these families have been the target of the land mafia.

According to the guest workers, miscreants engaged by the land mafia set the temporary shelters on fire in 2020. As the workers had left for their native during the covid pandemic, they were informed about their huts being burnt by other guest workers.

Later, a few volunteers came forward to help those who lost their shelters. Perhaps to protect the huts from miscreants, the volunteers constructed two model shelters (sheet shelters).

Nomads staging protest in front of Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner's Office. They have been promised new homes

BangaloreMirror

From the ashes, he rose like a phoenix

Having lost his books to a blaze, student clears SSLC with good marks

BM's report on Aug 14, 2020; study materials of children residing in slum were burnt

Previously, Bangalore Mirror had reported about the issue – Months after fire, new roof over their heads - on September 13, 2020, narrating how the volunteers levelled the ground to put up sheet shelters.

Further, BM published a story – Watch: From the ashes, he rose like a phoenix – on August 14, 2020, narrating how study materials of children residing at the slum were burnt in the fire mishap.

The guest workers had no problem till December 28, 2022. These families left for Katpadi in Tamil Nadu to attend a funeral of their relative. However, they returned to Bengaluru after attending the funeral only to see their huts demolished by revenue authorities claiming the land belonged to the lake.

Currently, with no shelter, these families are taking shelter at nearby temples and other vacant places.

"We have been residing here for more than four decades. The revenue authorities demolished our temporary shelters while we were away from home," said Selva Mari, a guest worker.

Meanwhile, the revenue authorities assured to relocate these families 30 km away from the city.

"We depend on alms for livelihood. We have to go door to door to collect it. We have to leave home by 3 am to visit residential areas for alms. If we put up the shelters at the new location suggested by the revenue officials, it wouldn't be safe for us to leave home at 3 am," said Gunasekhar, another guest worker.

Recently, these families staged a protest in front of Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner's Office seeking suitable locations for them to put up shelters.

V Murthy, general secretary, Viduthalai Siruthaigal, told BM, "I am very happy with the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner's assurance to find a suitable location for these families who lost their shelter at Kacharakanahalli."

The families met the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath seeking his help to get a suitable location for putting up shelters, he added.

"The BBMP Chief Commissioner assured us to get flats allotted by Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation," he informed.

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

Winds of change blow away stench of garbage in Shivajinagar

For decades, the narrow bylanes of Shivajinagar would be synonymous with massive piles of garbage, dumped across the area by residents, who had no other choice in the absence of regular door-to-door garbage collection. But thanks to an initiative by the local elected representative, these very same bylanes today are garbage-free.

Before 2020, Shivajinagar would consistently rank last in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) list for cleanliness. The area, which has many settlements and residential areas, did not have timely garbage collection or segregation of garbage. Over the years, this resulted in the formation of several blackspots, some of them not being cleared for over half a century!

"There was no garbage collection for over 40 years, and in some spots, black spots were in existence for over 50 years. Residents were unaware of garbage segregation and anyway if we segregated as well, there was no one to collect it," said Ameer Basha, a resident of Shivajinagar.

However, things started changing for the better from 2020. This was the year that a new representative was elected for the Shivajinagar Assembly Constituency. Within a few months of being elected, officers of the BBMP and Pourakarmikas were summoned to Shivajinagar and the issue of garbage collection was discussed in detail with them.

"Officials came to our area and started discussing garbage segregation and collection. The black spots were brought up and they promised that they would be cleared on priority. The MLA was present during these meetings to make sure that the officials understood the seriousness of the issue," said Abdul Shekh, a resident of Thimmaiah road in Shivajinagar.

Blackspots have become a thing of the past in Shivajinagar ever since MLA Rizwan Arshad took up the garbage issue head on

As engineers explained the ground level issues with collection, a new plan was formulated and put in place. For the first time in its long history since independence, Shivajinagar had door-to-door garbage collection. The black spots were dealt with and today, the entire area is free of these garbage dumping spots.

Meeting -cum Interaction of Commercial Establishments & BBMP Authorities to Discuss Solid Waste Management (Commercial Garbage)

"I wanted to ensure it is not a one time exercise so putting in place a continuous monitoring system was very important. The BBMP engineers were very helpful after it was instructed to begin door-to-door collection. We made sure that the public also understood the importance of segregation. Today, thanks to the new system, the children can play in garbage-free streets and the general quality of public life as well as public health has increased," said Rizwan Arshad, MLA, Shivajinagar.

The garbage menace was dealt with as part of #ProjectShivajinagar, an initiative by Arshad to improve his constituency and bring it to a level that makes it one of the better maintained constituencies in the city. "The MLA himself held the broom, after that everyone had to follow. Rizwan would accompany the BBMP officials who trained us on segregation. As he was there, people took it seriously. He had just been elected, there was no need for him to come on these drives. This shows his commitment," said Mujeeba Bhanu from Tusker Town.

"There's much more to be done on garbage and cleanliness in the constituency, I am not completely satisfied. We have only begun dealing with the issue, we will do more once all the infrastructure works are completed. My commitment to Shivajinagar is a disease free environment and a continuous monitoring system to ensure what we began stays in place," says Rizwan Arshad, MLA, Shivajinagar Constituency.

All eyes on Nelamangala infra

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recently stated that all possible steps would be taken to start the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project. The PRR project is

set to become a big boost for realty in the area. It will be connecting NICE Road to Nelamangala Road. Currently, Nelamangala Road is served by NICE Road to Magadi, Mysuru, Kanakapura, Bannerghatta, and Hosur roads on one side. However, there is no connectivity to the other side and commuters have to use the congested Outer Ring Road (ORR).

BDA's fresh interest in Peripheral Ring Road will create realty boom here

PRR will provide connectivity from Nelamangala Road to Hesaraghatta, Doddaballapur, Chikkaballapur-Airport Road, Old Madras, Sarjapur, and Hosur roads. Realtors say that the proposed new Greenfield Road will surely provide better connectivity to areas in and around Nelamangala.

The Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) revised interest in taking up the PRR project has given a big push to property buying. Along with the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), realtors in Tumakuru Road and Nelamangala are keeping an eye on the PRR and six-lane road developments.

Both projects have turned Nelamangala into a buzzing place for real estate activities. As the metro and local train facilities are at a commutable distance for residents and industries are coming up around the area, Nelamangala is turning out to have very suitable living conditions. Most of the development work in Bengaluru has extended to the outskirts of the city.

The real estate sector is very keen on developing Nelamangala and surrounding areas. The presence of many domestic and international industries has created job opportunities for lakhs of people. The vehicle and population density in the city have also increased, which is why people want to shift to the outskirts. All of these factors have led to an increased demand for properties in Nelamangala.

The first stage of STRR connects to Dabaspet in Tumakuru Road. Dabaspet is becoming a large industrial hub in the country. People purchasing sites in the outskirts like Nelamangala will make a handsome profit in the future. Developmental activities here are in full swing and future projects are seeing an increased demand. The road also connects to Doddaballapur in Hindupur Road, Devanahalli in Hyderabad Road, and Hoskote in Kolar Road. In the second stage, it connects Doddaballapur to Hoskote Road.

A property developer said, "For those who want to make good profits in real estate, Nelamangala is the ideal choice. There are great opportunities to buy plots".

– Prakash VL

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Non-FSI areas and property buying

The real estate market is evolving by the day. The government is also modifying rules and regulations in response to the shift in standards. As a result, whether you're a developer, an individual property buyer, or a seller, you need to know the guidelines.

To comprehend the non-FSI region, you must first grasp the FSI area. The floor space index is referred to as the FSI area. FAR, or floor area ratio, is another name for it. It is an allowed limit for a builder to construct a property. Before beginning building, the builder must obtain clearance from the municipal corporation's city development authority. Rules differ from one city to the next.

What Is Non-FSI?

A non-FSI area is one that does not appear on a floor plan. There is an elevator, a staircase, a basement, and a lobby. When the FSI is calculated without including a Non-FSI area, the actual area under construction is reduced. This benefited developers by allowing them to get their designs authorised by the local authorities much sooner, saving them money.

Importance Of FSI

The FSI value influences the value of land in a certain location. This value influences how much land can be used and if the structure can be multi-story. The FSI value does not remain constant across all locations.

With the FSI in place, city planning and development become more consistent since it ensures disciplined construction in all sectors in order to meet deadlines. This can help to distinguish between construction and open places. Furthermore, no unlawful development is permitted.

Higher FSI indicates that builders can build more and so sell more, which brings us back to the affordability question. This will be useful in areas where there is an urgent need to provide homes for everybody. A lower FSI indicates that less land will be used for building on that parcel of land. If the building is built in accordance with the FSI, the builder is not subject to NOC questioning.

What Impacts FSI?

Many factors can influence a building's potential FSI. Some of these factors include the size of the plot, the type of building, the plot's location (city zone), the needed utilities that may be made accessible for the project, and so on.

Although the arithmetic is easy, estimating the actual FSI of a possible structure can be tricky since numerous places such as basements, porches, shafts, elevators, service rooms, and so on may or may not be considered as FSI according to your city's laws. To appropriately analyse this, a detailed understanding of the city's statutes and by-laws is essential.

Because purchasing property requires a major financial commitment, it is critical to understand these variables before agreeing to a contract.

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K'taka Budget 2023-24

A good year ahead?

...overall, Bengaluru's development gets a grant of Rs 9,698 crore while the revenue surplus was Rs 402 crore. Read on to know about some of the highlights

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The crumbling infrastructure of Bengaluru got a boost with Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai who also holds the portfolio of Bengaluru Development offered a number of SoPs in the budget presented on Friday.
For the comprehensive development of Bengaluru, a grant of Rs 9,698 crore has been proposed in the budget.

Roads
The CM has proposed an elevated highway on the eastern sector and allocated Rs 350 crore for a five-kilometre-long elevated stretch that will connect Tin Factory from Medahalli. The CM also proposed to develop 75 important junctions with the most traffic congestion at a cost of Rs 150 crore. As a supplement to this, traffic congestion will be reduced by leveraging Artificial Intelligence.

Accessibility
The CM also said that an integrated flyover from Yeswanthpur Railway Station to Mathikere and BEL Road will be taken up. "For proper usage of Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at Byappanahalli, the access roads around the terminal will be comprehensively developed and at a cost of Rs 300 crore," he said.

White-topping
The CM said that white-topping of 120-km arterial roads in Bengaluru will be taken up at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore and 300 km of arterial and sub-arterial roads in the city will be developed at a cost of Rs 450 crore. Rs 300 crore will be provided for repairing roads in the 110 villages in the BBMP's ambit.

Flood control
The State Government has proposed Rs 1,813 crore to undertake the development of a total 195 km of drainage and culverts for ensuring free flow of rain water and to avoid flooding.
During the budget presentation, Bommai said, "To mitigate the ill effects of climate change and control floods in Bengaluru, a project with the assistance of the World Bank at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore will be implemented."

Water
CM said that the works of Cauvery Water Supply Scheme Stage-V has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 5,550 crore with the financial assistance of JICA and these works will be completed in the year 2023-24.
"Rs 200 crore financial assistance will be given to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) from the state government for implementing the second phase of providing potable water to 110 villages coming under the purview of BBMP. Construction works of four new effluent treatment plants will be taken up with a total capacity of 440 MLD at cost of Rs 1,200 crore have been taken up under the Mega City Revolving Fund," CM said.

Health & education
The Bengaluru Public Schools announced in the 2022-23 budget is likely to be implemented at a cost of Rs 180 crore under Amrutha Nagarothana Scheme and the work will be completed in the year 2023-24.
To improve the health administration system, it was proposed to re-constitute the Mahanagara Health Administration system as Bengaluru Health Systems.

Security
CM said that to prevent the encroachment of BBMP property and to ensure the protection of such property, fencing, erecting boards and surveillance through GPS software will be undertaken at a cost of Rs 35 crore.
"Around 4,100 cameras have already been installed in 1,640 places in Bengaluru.
"A grant of Rs 261 crore will be provided to complete this scheme in the current year. Around 250 "She Toilets" will be constructed in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs 50 crore," he said.

'Odourless' garbage
The CM has proposed to make garbage collection odourless. He said, "Several actions will be taken for processing of waste produced in Bengaluru. Auto-tippers and compactors designed for collection of dry waste and wet waste in the same vehicle will be operationalised."

Green city?
The CM wants to bring back greenery to Bengaluru by planting more saplings. He said from 2023-24 onwards, 15 lakh saplings will be planted in the city. The budget also proposes establishing three new high-tech nurseries in coordination with the Forest Department.

Strays
"To prevent violence on animals and for the welfare of animals, a grant of Rs 5 crore will be provided to the Animal Welfare Board. Mobile veterinary clinics will be launched by the Board in Bengaluru for the treatment of deserted animals. In order to develop Mudhol Hound Dog Breed, a grant of Rs 5 crore will be provided. An online software will be developed for taking care of stray dogs and to enable the public to adopt them. With this, an opportunity is created for the dog lovers to adopt dogs by registering their names," the CM said.

Digital farming
Govt wants to now introduce digitalisation even in farming. CM said that a new programme has been formulated in collaboration with ISRO to incorporate geospatial technology in digital farming at a cost of Rs 50 crore. The information generated will be useful for enhancing agricultural productivity.

Women power
With elections round the corner, Bommai has offered a number of SoPs for women. A free bus pass facility to all women working in the organised sector for which Rs 1,000 crore will be sanctioned. A decision has been taken to provide free bus pass facility to all school and college girl students at a cost of Rs 350 crore. The monthly pension paid to victims of acid attack has already been increased from Rs 3,000 to Rs 10,000, he said.

A revenue surplus budget

The Friday's budget was a revenue surplus of **Rs 402 crore** and broke the deficit budgets for the last two consecutive years. CM Basavaraj Bommai described it as a budget for the voiceless which focuses on farmers, working class, poor and women.

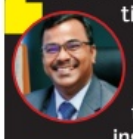
The budget size is pegged at **Rs 3,09,182 crore**, up from **Rs 2,65,720 crore** in 2022-23.

Bommai stated that the state had recorded a growth rate of **7.9 per cent**. Compared to last financial year, the service sector has recorded **9.2 per cent** and industry sector **5.1 per cent** growth in 2022-23.

What B'lureans said, in response

Congress party leaders including Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president **DK Shivakumar** attended the budget session with 'flowers in their ears'. In Kannada, wearing flowers behind one's ears is a symbol of betrayal and fooling. Taking a dig at Siddaramaiah, the CM said, "All these days, he was trying to put flowers on others' ears (fooling people). Now, the tables have turned. The people have put flowers in his ears which will continue till the upcoming elections." Unwilling to relent, Siddaramaiah said that through this budget, CM Bommai was trying to betray seven crore people of the state.

The budget is inclusive and has addressed key critical areas by promoting industry, energy transmission, and welfare of unorganised workers, skill development and entrepreneurship training. The higher allocation to Bengaluru to expand road infrastructure and metro connectivity to decongest the city is a welcome move. In addition, they are focussing on women's welfare and their safety,"
– **Dr L Ravindran,** President, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce



"The Rs 500 crore allocation to build homes for the houseless will help achieve the government target of 'Housing for All'. The key announcement was the state announcing the formation of a tribunal to fix uniform rates for land acquisition,"
– **Shantanu Mazumder,** Executive Director, Bengaluru, Knight Frank India

Bengaluru is already the startup hub of the country. The proposed state-of-the-art start-up park near Bengaluru will help attract startups, and investments in the capital city and its peripheral areas. The construction of airports and connectivity networks in district centres will help create numerous real estate hotspots in the state,"
– **Amarendra Sahu,** CEO, NestAway Technologies

Maha Shivaratri 2023: What to eat if you are fasting

Maha Shivratri is one of the most auspicious Hindu festivals which is celebrated by devotees across India. This year the festival, also called the 'Great time of lord Shiva', will be observed on February 18, 2023. It's celebrated annually in honour of Lord Shiva, who is considered one of the main deities in Hinduism.

Some married women observe a fast to maintain the balance of harmony in their marriage, and unmarried women observe this fast in the hope that they can find a life partner like Lord Shiva.

On Mahashivratri several devotees opt for 'Nirjala vrat' where they consume no water or food throughout the day. However, not many can perform this type of fast, hence a majority of the people keep a fast where they can have fruits, milk, and non-grain items.

Here are the foods that you can have while observing Mahashivratri:

Rose Thandai

On this special occasion, enjoy refreshing and gut-cooling Rose Thandai. It is a Shivaratri's special drink that is made with rose essence and is garnished with fresh rose petals. You can also add-on roohafza to it for a good flavour. This beverage makes you fuller and cools down your acidity.

Potatoes

Potatoes are one of the best food items consumed during the Maha Shivratri festival. They can keep you full throughout the day. You can consume your favourite aloo tikki, aloo pakora, aloo khichdi and sweet potato chaat as long as they don't have onion, garlic, and other species in them.

Milk

On this special day, devotees wash the Shiva lingam with milk--because Lord Shiva has been said to love milk, according to religious Hindu texts. So, milk is also consumed widely during the fast on Mahashivratri. You can have milk and milk-based desserts and drinks--like badam doodh, kheer, Sabudana kheer, and makhane ki kheer during the fast.

Sabudana

Sabudana (tapioca pearls) is one of the most commonly used food items during fasting. You can make many dishes with it such as Sabudana Khichdi, sago pearls, and peanuts, sabudana pakora, sabudana vada with a pinch of Sendha Namak (Rock Salt), which is used in all food preparations for fast or vrat. These are some popular sabudana dishes consumed by devotees across the world on this occasion.

Fruits, dry fruits

Fruits are a big part of every pujas or fasting. It is also really good for your health. If you get hungry, you can even consume fruit chaats, fruit salads and fruit milkshakes on this day. You can also munch on a wide variety of dry fruits like almonds, walnuts, dates, raisins, and dried apricots. **ANI**

Mahashivaratri Fair of Ukkadagatri
Sri Karibasaveshwara Gaddige

Programs: **Date: 20.02.2023, Monday**

Sri Karibasaveshwara Gaddige Pooja, Hoisting of Nandi Flag and Vigil (Jagarane) on the same **night 21.02.2023, Tuesday at 8.00 am** After the **Mahapooja of Rathotsava with the amrita hasta of Sri Vrishabhapuri** Samsthan 1108 **Jagadguru Sri Sri Siddharameshwara Shivacharya Mahaswamy,** Bruhanmata, Nandigudi, Rathotsava begins with all the splendor

22.02.2023, Wednesday: Javala, Harike, Tulabhaara
23.02.2023, Thursday: Kaanike, Javala, Tulabhaara and Wrestling
24.02.2023, Friday: Making an offering and Wrestling
25.02.2023, Saturday: Putting Phalara after Puja & Rajopachara Pooja to Shri Swami at 10 am.
26.02.2023, Sunday: Silver Chariot Festival of Ajjayya at 10 am and Palikotsava at 8 pm
27.02.2023, Monday: Distribution of Ajjayya's Phalara

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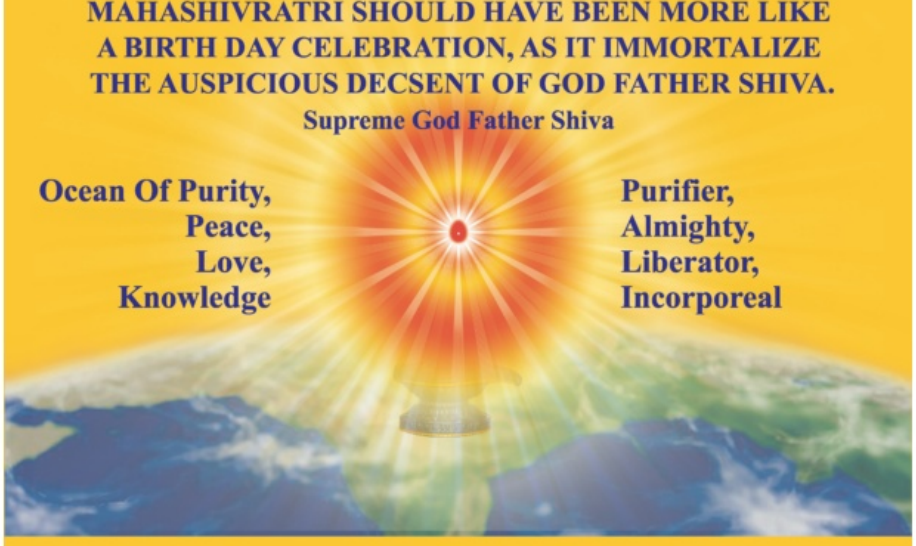
THE DIVINE DESCENT OF SUPREME GOD FATHER SHIVA
THE GREATEST FESTIVAL OF THIS LAND
MAHASHIVRATRI SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE LIKE
A BIRTH DAY CELEBRATION, AS IT IMMORTALIZE
THE AUSPICIOUS DECSENT OF GOD FATHER SHIVA.
Supreme God Father Shiva



THE SUPREME FATHER OF ALL SOULS INCARNATES INTO THIS PHYSICAL WORLD THROUGH THE CORPOREAL HUMAN MEDIUM OF PRAJAPITA BRAHMA. THE INCORPOREAL SUPREME GOD FATHER SHIVA WHOSE SUPREME ABODE IS ABOVE THE 5 ELEMENTS OF THE NATURE, PARAMDHAM. WHEN THE IRRELIGIOUSNESS, VICES AND SUFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE INCREASES, TO ESTABLISH PEACE, PURITY, PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS THROUGH THE INCULCATION OF DIVINE VIRTUES BY BESTOWING DIVINE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SELF, CREATION AND THE SUPREME GOD, SO AS TO LEARN THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MEDITATION, WHICH IS CALLED AS RAJ YOGA. RAJ YOGA ENABLES US TO GET ALL THE POWERS FROM ALMIGHTY GOD FATHER SHIVA. RAJ YOGA MEDITATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF ALL OUR SINS AND TO BE PURE & TO ENJOY THE REAL FRUITS OF LIFE, PEACE PURITY HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT. THE SUPREME POWERS WITH THE GOD ARE PURITY, PEACE, HAPPINESS, BLISS, KNOWLEDGE, FORTUNE CREATOR, LIBERATOR, BESTOWER OF DIVINE INTELLECT. ALL THESE TEACHINGS ARE BEING CONDUCTED IN THE GOD'S OWN UNIVERSITY, PRAJAPITA BRAHMA KUMARIS ISHWARIYA VIDYALAYA, WHICH IS OPEN TO ONE & ALL. PLEASE DO SPARE SOME TIME AND VISIT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD`S OWN LEARNINGS. THE COMING REVOLUTIONARY TIME WILL BRING ABOUT REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES IN THE WORLD SET UP WHERE WE CAN SEE TO OUR SELVES HOW THE DIVINITY, PURITY WILL ESTABLISH HEAVEN ON THIS LAND. PLEASE TREAT THIS AS OUR PERSONAL APPEAL TO ONE & ALL. LATER ON DO NOT REPENT THAT WHILE WE WERE IN SEARCH OF GOD, AND HIS INFORMATION NOT MADE KNOWN TO US.

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HEALTH TIP: Energy drinks contain up to five times more caffeine than coffee, but the boost they provide is fleeting and comes with unpleasant side effects

Grabbing a 100-calorie snack pack may seem virtuous, but it is more likely to make you hungrier than if you ate something more substantial

PROCESS THIS!

Ultra processed foods like cookies, chips, frozen meals may contribute to cognitive decline

Scientists have known for years that unhealthy diets – particularly those that are high in fat and sugar – may cause detrimental changes to the brain and lead to cognitive impairment.

Many factors that contribute to cognitive decline are out of a person's control, such as genetics and socioeconomic factors. But ongoing research increasingly indicates that a poor diet is a risk factor for memory impairments during normal aging and increases the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

But when evaluating how some diets may erode brain health as we age, research on the effects of consuming minimally processed versus ultra processed foods has been scant – that is, until now.

Two recent large-scale studies suggest that eating ultra processed foods may exacerbate age-related cognitive decline and increase the risk of developing dementia. In contrast, another recent study reported that ultraprocessed food consumption was not associated with worse cognition in people over 60.

Although more research is needed, as a neuroscientist who researches how diet can influence cognition later in life, I find that these early studies add a new layer for considering how fundamental nutrition is to brain health.

Lots of ingredients, minimal nutrition

Ultra Processed foods tend to be lower in nutrients and fiber and higher in sugar, fat and salt compared to unprocessed or minimally processed foods. Some examples of ultra processed foods include soda, packaged cookies, chips, frozen meals, flavored nuts, flavored yogurt, distilled alcoholic beverages and fast foods. Even packaged breads, including those high in nutritious whole grains, qualify as ultra processed in many cases because of the additives and preservatives they contain.

Another way to look at it: You are not likely to find the ingredients that make up most of these foods in your home kitchen.

But don't confuse ultra processed foods with processed foods, which still retain most of their natural characteristics, although they've undergone some form of processing – like canned vegetables, dried pasta or frozen fruit.

Parsing the research

In a December 2022 study, researchers compared the rate of cognitive decline over approximately eight years between groups of people that consumed different amounts of ultra processed foods.

At the beginning of the study, over 10,000 participants living in Brazil reported their dietary habits from the previous 12 months. Then, for the ensuing years, the researchers evaluated the cognitive performance of the participants with standard tests of memory and executive function.

Those who ate a diet containing more ultra processed foods at the start of the study showed slightly more cognitive decline compared with those that ate little to no ultra processed foods. This was a relatively modest difference in the rate of cognitive decline between experimental groups. It is not yet clear if the small difference in cognitive decline associated with higher consumption of ultra processed foods will have a meaningful effect at the level of an individual person.

> **Two recent large-scale studies suggest that eating ultra processed foods may exacerbate age-related congnitive decline, increase the risk of developing dementia**

The second study, with about 72,000 participants in the UK, measured the association between eating ultra processed foods and dementia. For the group eating the highest amounts of ultra processed foods, approximately one out of 120 people were diagnosed with dementia over a 10-year period. For the group that consumed little to no ultra processed foods, this number was one out of 170.

Research examining the relationship between health and ultra processed foods uses the NOVA classification, which is a categorisation system based on the type and extent of industrial food processing. Some nutritionists have criticized the NOVA classification for not having clear definitions of food processing, which could lead to misclassification. They also argue that the potential health risks from consuming ultra processed foods could be explained by low levels of fiber and nutrients and high levels of fat, sugar and salt in the diet rather than the amount of processing.

Many ultra processed foods are high in additives, preservatives or coloring agents, while also having other features of an unhealthy diet, such as being low in fiber and nutrients.

Thus, it is unclear if eating food that has undergone more processing has an additional negative impact on health beyond low diet quality.

For example, you could eat a burger and fries from a fast food chain, which would be high in fat, sugar and salt as well as being ultra processed. You could make that same meal at home, which could also be high in fat, sugar and salt but would not be ultra processed. More research is needed to determine whether one is worse than the other.

Brain-healthy diets

Even when the processes that lead to dementia are not occurring, the aging brain undergoes biochemical and structural changes that are associated with worsening cognition.

But for adults over the age of 55, a healthier diet could increase the likelihood of maintaining better brain function. In particular, the Mediterranean diet and ketogenic diet are associated with better cognition in advanced age.

The Mediterranean diet emphasizes the consumption of plant-based foods and healthy fats, like olive oil, seeds and nuts. The ketogenic diet is high in fat and low in carbohydrates, with the primary fiber source being from vegetables. Both diets minimize or eliminate the consumption of sugar.

Our research and the work of others show that both diets can reverse some of these changes and improve cognitive function – possibly by reducing harmful inflammation.

Although inflammation is a normal immune response to injury or infection, chronic inflammation can be detrimental to the brain. Studies have shown that excess sugar and fat can contribute to chronic inflammation, and ultra processed foods might also exacerbate harmful inflammation.

The uncertainties

Disentangling the specific effects of individual foods on the human body is difficult, in part because maintaining strict control over people's diets to study them over long periods of time is problematic. Moreover, randomised controlled trials, the most reliable type of study for establishing causality, are expensive to carry out.

So far, most nutritional studies, including these two, have only shown correlations between ultra processed food consumption and health.

But they cannot rule out other lifestyle factors such as exercise, education, socioeconomic status, social connections, stress and many more variables that may influence cognitive function.

This is where lab-based studies using animals are incredibly useful. Rats show cognitive decline in old age that parallels humans. It's easy to control rodent diets and activity levels in a laboratory. And rats go from middle to old age within months, which shortens study times.

Lab-based studies in animals will make it possible to determine if ultra processed foods are playing a key role in the development of cognitive impairments and dementia in people. As the world's population ages and the number of older adults with dementia increases, this knowledge cannot come soon enough.

—Sara N Burke (The Conversation)

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a 59-year-old woman and I desperately need some advice as I'm finding it difficult to cope with life due to ill health. I had a stroke nearly two years ago and every day since then I've really struggled with my mental health in particular. It means I don't want to go out much and I feel pretty poorly every day.
I have been to my GP, as well as mental health services, but neither is doing me much good at the moment.
Before this happened to me I absolutely loved life and I really want to get better, not just for my own wellbeing, but so I can help other people who've had a similar experience.
The problem is, I feel so tired and sick all the time that it's really difficult to make a start with anything, so every day is the same.

COLEEN SAYS

It sounds like you're caught in a vicious circle where the depression and physical symptoms are feeding each other. It is really hard to break out of that mindset when you feel so low and tired physically.
As someone who's tired and had counselling in the past (and still has it now), I can say from experience that it takes time to start feeling the benefits, so stick with it. Or try a different counsellor. Counselling doesn't make everything better instantly, but it will give you the tools so you can help yourself to get better.
Look, you've been through a really rough time so it's not surprising you feel low. It's pretty common to feel like this after illness or surgery.
But the power to change has got to come from within you. So, it's a lot to do with mindset and that's where counselling can really have an effect.
I think it's great that you've identified you'd like to help others, so it's important you're in a strong place in order to do that.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Adani-Hindenburg: SC rejects Centre's sealed cover idea

Says it will appoint experts' panel for strengthening regulatory measures for stock markets

#NEW DELHI

Observing that it will maintain "fullest transparency" to protect investor interest, the Supreme Court Friday refused to accept the Centre's suggestion given in a sealed cover and said it will appoint a panel of experts on its own for strengthening regulatory measures for stock markets in the wake of the recent Adani Group shares crash triggered by Hindenburg Research's fraud allegations.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the sealed cover means the other side will not have access to the contents and it may give the impression that the government appointed the committee and the top court accepted it.

Giving primacy to investors' interest, the bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala ruled out the possibility of any sitting judge overseeing the functioning of the panel. "We are closing it for orders," it said after the hearing which lasted for nearly an hour.

After receiving the note from Solicitor General on the members and remit (scope) of the proposed panel, the bench said, "Just one thing.., you know, if we accept the set of suggestions from you in a sealed cover that means the other side has not seen them. Even if we don't accept your suggestion, they will not know which of your suggestions we have accepted and which we have not. Then there may be an impression that well, this is a government appointed committee which the Supreme Court has accepted..."

Illustration shows Electric power transmission pylon miniatures and Adani Green Energy logo

"So we want to maintain the fullest transparency in the interest of protecting the investors. We will appoint a committee of our own which might be altogether better and that will promote the sense of transparency and confidence in the process," the bench said. The court said if it were to accept the suggestions then the contents of the sealed cover report will have to be disclosed to the other side so that there is a sense of transparency and confidence in the process.

This is what we have suggested the remit which we have made absolutely objectively so as to ensure that the whole thing is holistically looked into and examined, said the SG.

At the outset, the law officer said there were two intentions in his mind. "A. Truth comes out and a holistic view is presented before your Lordships. And, B. No unintended impact on the securities markets etc because your lordships are aware that it is an emotion driven market," he said. Referring to the SEBI reports, the bench said it has been averred that the market impact of the Adani issue is "almost zero".

"Irrespective of the status of the impact, there can't be any denial of the fact that there has been losses suffered (by the investors)," the bench said. The law officer said so far as the suggestion that the functioning of the panel must be supervised by a former Supreme judge, the government has no objection and it leaves it to the discretion of the court.

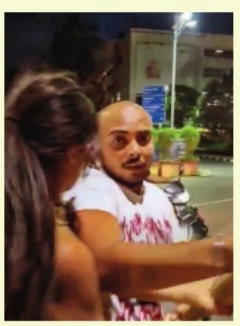
"Only concern which I share with the Lordships is this that by its very nature, it may not be advisable to delay the entire exercise for a long period and any Hon'ble judge who can devote time, your lordships can select," the solicitor general said.

The bench refused to accept the suggestions made in a sealed cover. **PTI**

Shaw 'attacked': Influencer sent to police custody

#MUMBAI

A court here on Friday remanded social media influencer Sapna Gill in police custody till February 20 for allegedly manhandling Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw and attacking his car following a row over clicking of selfies, even as she claimed to be the real victim. Besides original charges of rioting and extortion, police also invoked Indian Penal Code section 387 (putting a person in fear of death or of grievous hurt in order to commit extortion) against Gill. The alleged incident had taken place early Wednesday morning outside a luxury hotel in suburban Santacruz.


Video grab of the row involving Prithvi Shaw

Based on a complaint lodged by Shaw's friend and flatmate Ashish Yadav, Oshiwara Police registered a case against Gill, her friend Sohbit Thakur and six others under several sections of the IPC, Gill, the only arrested accused in the case, was produced before a magistrate court. During the remand hearing, police said the co-accused were absconding. The investigating officer told the court that Thakur and Gill approached Shaw for a selfie at the hotel. Initially, the cricketer obliged them. But when they insisted on clicking more selfies, he declined. **-PTI**

Uddhav loses name, symbol of party started by father

In a big blow to Uddhav Thackeray, the Election Commission on Friday allotted the name 'Shiv Sena' and its poll symbol 'bow and arrow' to the group led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

In a unanimous order on the six-month-old petition filed by Shinde, the three-member Commission allowed the Thackeray faction to retain the name Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the 'flaming torch' poll symbol, given to it in an interim order last year, till the conclusion of ongoing assembly bypolls in the state.

Shinde described the EC verdict as a "victory of truth and people as well as blessings of Balasaheb Thackeray" while Sanjay Raut, who is with Thackeray, said the Commission decision to recognise the Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena was a "murder of democracy" and his party will "go to the people."

This is for the first time the Thackeray family has lost control of the party founded in 1966 by Balasaheb Thackeray on the principles of justice for the sons of the soil.

Later, the party adopted Hindutva as its key ideology and partnered with BJP till 2019 when Uddhav Thackeray broke the alliance to form the government with the help of the NCP and the Congress. Shinde broke ranks with Thackeray in June last year and formed the government in alliance with the BJP.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde gets Shiv Sena name, symbol

"The party name 'Shiv Sena' and the party symbol 'Bow and arrow' will be retained by the petitioner faction," the Commission said in the 78-page order.

It said the name of "Balasahebanchi Shiv Sena" and symbol of "Two swords and Shield", allotted to the Shinde faction in October last year, will now be frozen with immediate effect and will not be used.

The Commission said it applied the principles of the 'Test of party Constitution' and the 'Test of Majority' while finalising the order. **-PTI**

IN IMAX AT

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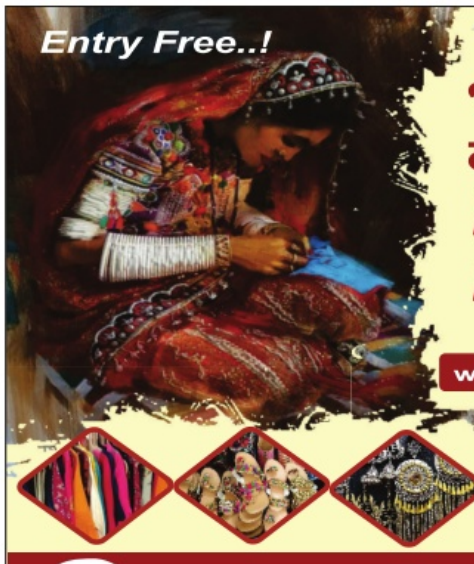

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IPL 2023 kicks off from March 31

The 2023 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) will be held from March 31, starting off with a blockbuster clash between defending champions Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings in Ahmedabad at Narendra Modi Stadium as a total of 70 league stage matches will be played over 52 days.

After staging IPL across Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad in the last edition in 2022, the 16th season of India's cash-rich T20 league will revert to the home and away format, where all the teams will play 7 home games and 7 away games respectively in the league stage.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday announced the schedule of the 16th season of the marquee event, which will be played across 12 venues.

The first double-header day of the season will be on April 1 on which Punjab Kings will square off against Kolkata Knight Riders in Mohali and Lucknow Super Giants will take on Delhi Capitals in Lucknow, the BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah informed in a release on Friday.

The TATA IPL 2023 will have 18 double-headers, with the day games starting at 3:30 PM IST and the evening games starting at 07:30 PM IST.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians will open their campaign in an away match at Royal Challengers Bangalore on April 2.

Rohit Sharma's team will play its first home match against archrival Chennai Super Kings on April 8.

Rajasthan Royals will play their first two home games in Guwahati before playing the remainder of their home games in Jaipur. Punjab Kings will play their five home matches in Mohali and then play their last two home matches in Dharamshala against Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals respectively.

The schedule and venues for the Playoffs and Final will be announced later. The summit clash of the IPL 2023 will be played on May 28, 2023.

—IANS

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I Victoria Parashar W/O, Parth Dixit R/o 93A 3rd Main 3rd Cross Arekere Mico Layout Stage 2nd Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Ria Dixit for all purposes

I SALIM PASHA IBRAHIM S/o Ibrahim R/o No:- 94/12 3rd Main Road, 4th Cross, Shamanna Nagar, Bangalore 26 have changed my name to Saleem Pasha for all purpose

I Nagaraju S/O, Bommaiah R/o No 49, 2nd Cross, Defence Layout, Sahakar Nagar Bengaluru - 560092 have changed my name to Nagaraju Bommaiah for all purposes.

I Priya Kapur W/O, Pankaj Kapur R/o No 132/134, Nandidurga Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046 have changed my name to Roopika Kapur for all purposes.

I Santosh S W/O, C Suresh Chand R/o 174 Main Road Jeevanahalli Cox Town Bangalore 560005 have changed my name to Santosh Bai

Street lighting techniques

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

authorities seeking suitable measures to avoid wastage of money by approving exorbitant rates quoted by a few contractors.

The letter stated that the PWD superintendent engineer is interested in favouring a few selected contractors while approving bids that are almost double in value as compared to the bids that were submitted and approved a few months ago.

According to a letter and documents available with Bangalore Mirror, the PWD approved the bids for installing decorative street light poles in Belagavi division before November 18, 2022.

As per the bids approved, the cost of a decorative street light pole was Rs 83,296. Meanwhile, a tender was approved by the District Urban Development Cell, Shivamogga, in which PWD executive engineer, Shivamogga, is also a member.

The committee has approved the bid for installing decorative street light poles at Rs 75,000 each. But the PWD superintending engineer at Shivamogga division revised the rate to Rs 1,20,000. Now, a tender is floated inviting bidders for installing around 200 decorative street light poles for Chitradurga division. The executive engineer (electrical), PWD, Bengaluru, floated the tender.

The state exchequer is expected to incur a loss of Rs 1 core as the cost of each decorative street light pole is quoted around Rs 50,000 more than the price quoted for Belagavi division.

"The point here to be noted is that the same contractor, who is executing the project in Belagavi division at Rs 83,296 a pole including GST has quoted Rs 1,20,000 excluding GST, for Chitradurga division because the PWD superintending engineer has approved the similar cost for Shivamogga division," said a contractor on the condition of anonymity.

According to a few PWD contractors, the decorative street light poles installed at Shivamogga are unscientific. They claimed that seven km of road can be illuminated with the cost of illuminating one km of road by installing decorative street light poles.

The Karnataka PWD Registered Contractors' Association sent the letter to the additional chief secretary of the Public Works Department and other authorities on January 25.

"Our intention is to avoid wastage of tax-payers' money. We want the higher authorities to stop the wastage of the tax-payers' money by taking appropriate measures," said a contractor.

Meanwhile, PWD executive engineer (electrical) Rajesh said submitting bids with excessive bid amounts is common. "I will look into the matter," the executive engineer (electrical) said.

PWD secretary KS Krishna Reddy said that he was not aware of the letter sent by the Karnataka PWD Registered Contractors' Association. "I will speak with the executive engineer (electrical) and do whatever is possible to avoid wastage of tax-payers' money," said Reddy.

8,45,530 traffic violations in January

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cases of two wheelers entering no entry zones.

"There is a need to go back and relicense everybody. We need to create more awareness because there are many who don't even know the rules of the road. Strict rules should be adopted for issuing licences and there needs to be strong enforcement to check wrong parking or driving on footpaths," added Sankaran.

The city has recorded a total number of 8,45,530 traffic violation cases by different vehicles, in which two-wheelers are in the lead.

"This is also because there has been an increase in the number of vehicles in the city. Many have more than one two-wheeler at their home which are often parked on the road. We are able to book more cases than before due to AI cameras and the use of technology. From our side we try to educate people, especially youngsters about traffic rules and safety measures," said the police.

A resident of the city added that they can often see people driving without a helmet and that might have led to an increase in offence data.

"Let alone residents, you can even spot traffic police on bikes who don't wear helmets. If the officials are not following the rules, why are they thinking that residents will follow it? You can spot people doing stunts on the road for social media; they are not scared, because they know that nothing serious will happen even if they break the law," she said.

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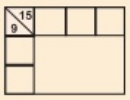
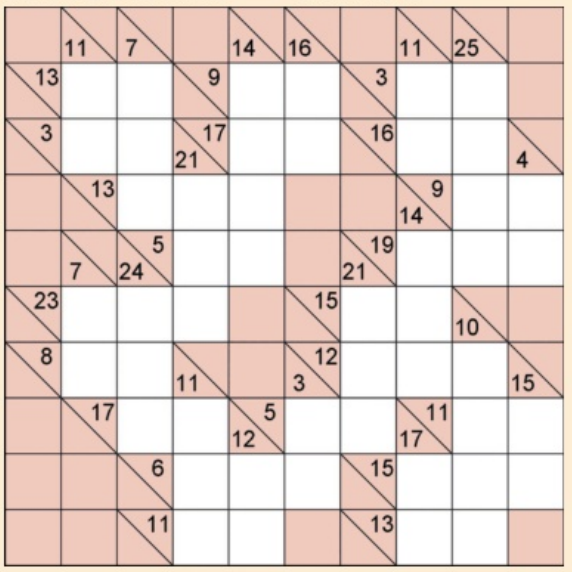
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

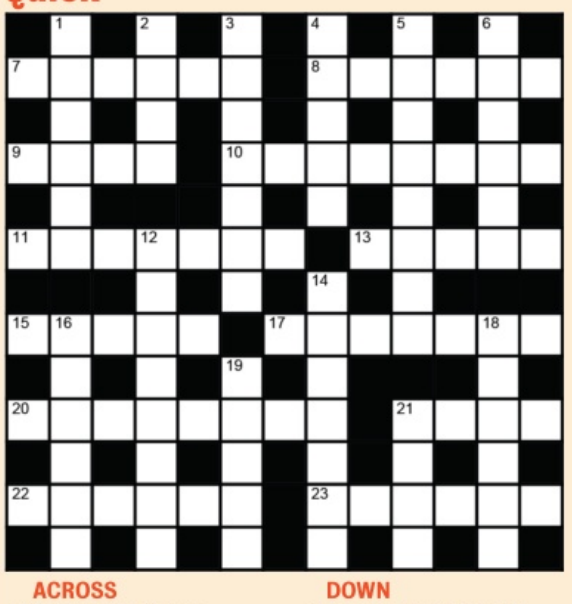


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Be present in great numbers (6)
8 Enfeeble, debilitate (6)
9 Extra, in addition to (4)
10 Towers of mosques (8)
11 Degrading or humbling? (7)
13 Leg joints (5)
15 Black wood (5)
17 Adorns or decorates (7)
20 Break a bone (8)
21 Droop (4)
22 Consisting of flowers (6)
23 In truth (6)

DOWN

1 Take in; incorporate (6)
2 Blend into one? (4)
3 Unyielding (7)
4 Oscillate like a pendulum (5)
5 Hollywood actress Jennifer ____ (8)
6 Water-boiling vessel (6)
12 Soft job (8)
14 Plague, afflict (7)
16 Only just (6)
18 Slew (6)
19 City in North Karnataka (5)
21 Marries (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS P

UMFXM CS FVWASGDWK MRDQWDCO CSW GMQESCQD-ZUM WS WAM EMSEUM.

Linemaro

You should stop drinking because you are driving me home

Mindchow

The obsession with personal success is a uniquely human problem that exists only in relation to the false self

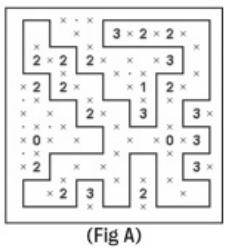
Joke of the day

After a holiday, the only thing that makes me happy to see the people I work with is having just been with the people I'm related to

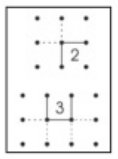
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



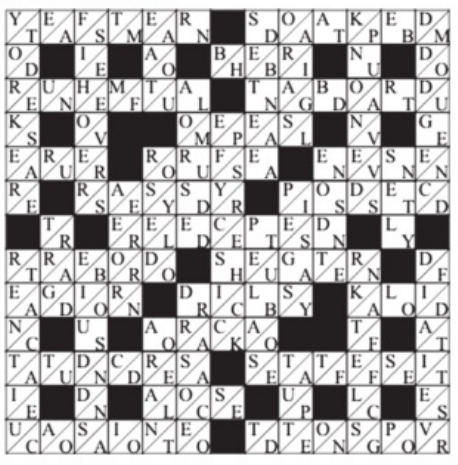
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

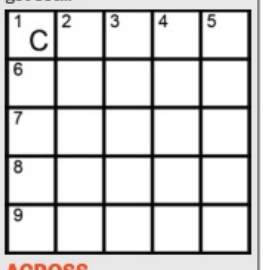
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

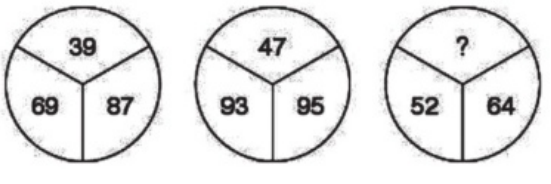
1 Certs; 6 Raita; 7 Rates; 8 Hew at; 9 Slink

DOWN

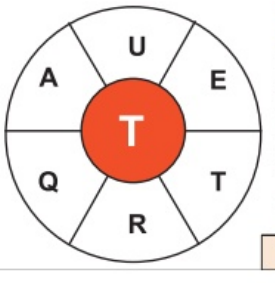
1 Raw LC; 2 Irish; 3 An tee; 4 Stake; 5 Start

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

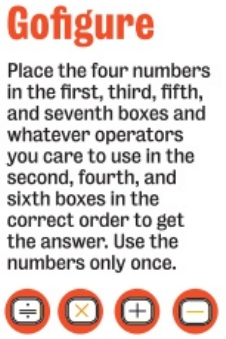
SudokuChallenge

5		9		1		3		4
			2		6			
8		4				6		7
3			5		9			2
		1				8		
2			1		4			9
1		7				5		3
			7		8			
4		5		9		2		6

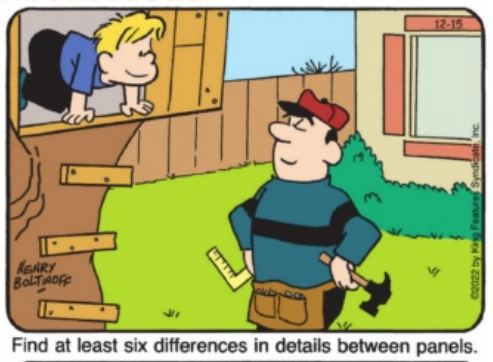
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

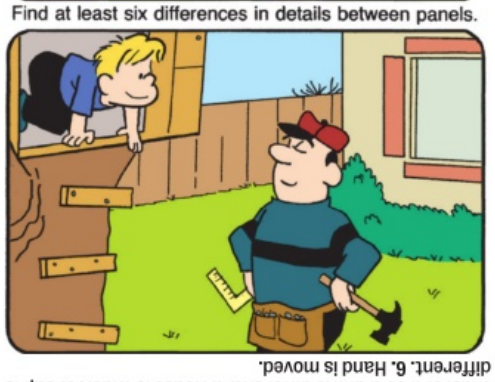
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hammer is longer. 2. Tree house is not as wide. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Gap is different. 6. Hand is moved.

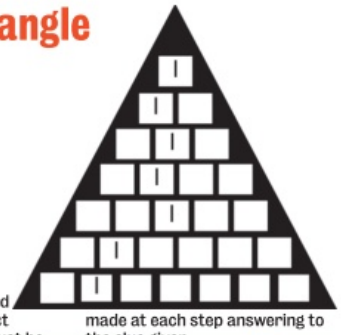
Riddler

In each sentence below, two words are incomplete. The two words end in the same three letters, so they look like they should rhyme, but they don't. See if you can figure out the missing letters in each sentence. Example: One symptom of bronchitis is a ro___ co___. (The two words are: rough & cough.)

1. A pig farmer's job could be called p___ w___.
2. A dog injury could be called a ho___ wo___.
3. For racing, a mixed ho___ is wo___ than a thoroughbred.
4. I he___ your be___ has been shaved into a goatee.

Alpha triangle

1 Pronoun
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Disencumbered
4 Dreadful
5 Sampled
6 Neater
7 Soiled



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 12-16-22
I'd never grow a silly hipster beard. This is one hundred percent mustache.
Dist. by King Features
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may perform better. Your kids' health is fine now. You can plan to make some investments for their future. You are likely to be more loyal towards your job. Job seekers may find a good job with the help of references. You may be able to find your hidden enemies, and with the help of blessings, you may counter them.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today your mothers' health may be good. You may enjoy it at work. You may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind can make you tired, and due to your workload, you may be late to a family event.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be satisfied with yourself at work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual place to maintain your inner peace. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool. Remember to think twice before any act. You may need to travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose it. You are also advised to avoid adventure tours. Students are advised to go for in-depth studying to get success.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel good and domestic harmony will make you happy. You will meet some influential people to get benefits on the work front. You may perform well at your job. You may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes in inherited property may settle down.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be busy with your kids. You may plan to invest in their future. You are likely to start innovations in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will grow in the near future. You may also plan for higher studies for grooming your career path.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear. You may get success to achieve your goals. Your creativity might improve and you will take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may help needy people around you. It will improve your reputation among your surroundings. New ideas may creep into your mind. You are likely to help other people around you. You might implement innovation into your work, which may boost your business. Lovebirds may plan for outings or adventure tours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household items. You are advised to control your expenditure on worthless items, otherwise it may attract negative energy in your house. You are also advised to control your harsh way of speaking with the people around you.

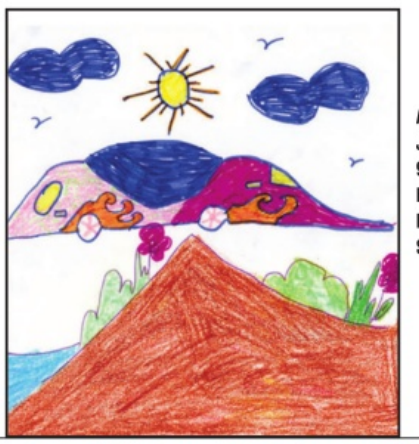
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your spiritual power will make you happy. Your way of thinking may be positive. You are inclined to spiritualism today. You may plan to visit some spiritual place. You may also take interest in occult sciences. You are likely to observe flawlessness in your nature, but it is advised to keep your views to yourself and people who may understand your frequency.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may feel nervous and may have a lack of patience. For seeking peace, you may be attracted to the occult. It is advised to follow your intuition before going ahead. You may also get deep knowledge on a subject or you may have a good focus towards research.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your moon is in a good position. You can expect some positive momentum in your professional and domestic life. There are likely to be gains in terms of your investments. You may get reciprocation of your help from friends and relatives. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success.

KIDZONE

Tejaswini S, 7 Years, Cordial School



Alfred John, 9 Years, Bright Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
quart, QUARTET, rate, tart, taut, tear, treat, true, utter

QUOTE UNCODE
Leave no authority existing not responsible to the people.

FAST FIVE

C	R	E	S	T
R	I	A	T	A
A	S	T	E	R
W	H	E	A	T
L	I	N	K	S

RIDDLER
1. pork work, 2. hound wound, 3. horse worse, 4. heard beard

STRIKE OUT

Y	E	S	M	E	N	S	O	A	K	E
O	I	A	H	E	R	N	O			
R	U	E	F	U	L	T	A	B	A	R
K	V		O	P	A	L	V	G		
E	R	E	O	U	S	E	N	E	N	E
R	S	A	S	S	Y	P	O	S	E	D
	T	E	L	E	C	T	E	D	Y	
T	A	B	O	O	H	U	G	E	R	F
A	G	O	N	D	I	B	S	A	L	I
C	U	O	R	C	A		T		T	
T	U	N	D	R	A	S	A	F	E	S
I	D	A	C	E	P	L	E			
C	A	S	I	N	O	T	E	N	S	O

QUICK

A	F	A	S	L	K					
A	B	O	U	N	D	W	E	A	K	E
S	S	A	I	W	T					
M	O	R	E	M	I	N	A	R	E	T
R	A	G	E	L						
A	B	A	S	I	N	G	K	N	E	S
	T	B	C							
E	B	O	N	Y	B	E	D	E	C	K
F	R	A	C	T	U	R	E	W	I	L
A	E	H	D	I						
E	U	B	V	E	L					
F	L	O	R	A	L	I	N	D	E	D
Y	E	I	L	S	D					

MENSA PUZZLE
29: 52 + 64 = 116. 116 ÷ 4 = 29. Similarly 93 + 95 = 188. 188 ÷ 4 = 47

SOLVE IN 1M
((82)²)/36
= (82)²/36
= 81/3
= (29)²/3
= 29/3
= 9

SUDOKU

4	8	5	3	9	1	7	2	6
6	3	2	7	5	8	4	9	1
1	9	7	4	6	2	5	8	3
2	5	6	1	8	4	7	3	9
9	7	1	6	2	3	8	4	5
3	4	8	5	7	9	1	6	2
8	2	4	9	3	5	6	9	8
7	1	3	2	4	6	9	5	8
5	6	9	8	1	7	3	2	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, Id, Rid, Dire, Tried, Tilder, Dirtied.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 9 + 9 − 3 = 20
Medium
5 + 3 + 6 + 4 = 18
Hard
6 + 6 − 6 + 5 = 11

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # From father to son

Actor Boman Irani's son Kayoze is all set to venture into Bollywood as a director with his first feature film and the proud dad took to social media to share his good wishes for his son

Hits and misses of this thing called love

ONDOLLE LOVE STORY

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Praveen Sutar
- **ACTORS** Ashwin, Dhanushree, Niranjana Babu, Nisha Hegde, Kailash Pal, KSG Venkatesh, and Vindya
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **DURATION** 119 minutes

Ondolle Love Story is a story about youngsters who go into depression after a breakup and become addicted to alcohol and drugs. The movie begins with Anish alias Ani (Ashwin) sitting on a serene lake bund. The scene shifts to the city where Ani, in an inebriated condition, is seen arguing with a liquor store worker, who retaliates and dumps Ani near a garbage bin. At this juncture, the director introduces Kavya (Nisha Hegde) who lives in a PG accommodation along with Jessie (Dhanushree). Kavya introduces Jessie to Ani. They decide to go on a long drive.

When Jessie and Ani become close, she asks him to tell her about his break up. Ani tells her how he had met Madhu (Vindya) inside a temple and how she fell in love with him but later she opted for a rich person and forgot about him. Ani later comes to know about how Jessie had fallen prey to a lewd person. He decides to spend his life with her. Will Jessie reciprocate his love? Watch to find out.

Ashwin has tried his best, but has a lot of work to do to establish himself as an actor. Vindya, even in a brief appearance, has an impressive presence. Among the other actresses, Dhanushree walks away with all honours for her performance as a rape victim.

Though a majority of the dialogues are meant for adults, a few dialogues are deep and meaningful. Sample this: "There was a reason for her to fall in love but there was no reason for her to call it quits"; "A girl suffers when her boyfriend does a mistake, a boy friend suffers when his girl friend decides to break up with him, but why should children make parents suffer for no fault of theirs?"

There are some glaring misses such as there is no police though a stabbing incident and a murder takes place at a bar. The other unconvincing scenes is where hero kills a child rape accused in broad daylight, but neither is he summoned to the police station nor do the police appear on the scene to investigate the case.

Director Praveen Sutar has failed to make the pre-intermission session interesting but succeeded in the second half, especially in the climax.

It is worth a watch, but as the certification indicates, don't take kids along!

—Y Maheswara Reddy

RUMOUR HAS IT

Has Sam rejected Pushpa sequel? Here's what we know...

After delivering a scintillating performance in dance number 'Oo Antava' in 'Pushpa', fans were hoping that the actress would be a part of the sequel too. However, reports are rife that the actress has rejected the offer in the second instalment of the Allu Arjun starrer.

Samantha's team recently lent a clarification on the rumours. It is all a random rumour, they told Pinkvilla. The report doing the rounds claimed that 'Pushpa 2' director Sukumar approached Samantha for another special number for the franchise but she apparently rejected the offer for she is not ready to do special numbers right now.

The report also added that the filmmaker is trying hard to convince her and even created a small character for Samantha and connected it to the storyline. However, the actress has turned down the offer. As of now the actress is busy with Citadel. **—ETimes**

CAR MODEL	YEAR	COLOUR	REGISTRATION
AMG GLA 35	2022	POLAR WHITE	UNREGISTERED
AMG GLA 35	2022	COSMOS BLACK	UNREGISTERED
AMG A35	2022	DENIM BLUE	UNREGISTERED
A200D	2022	POLAR WHITE	UNREGISTERED
A200	2023	POLAR WHITE	UNREGISTERED
A200	2023	COSMOS BLACK	UNREGISTERED
S350	2021	DIAMOND WHITE	UNREGISTERED
S350	2022	DIAMOND WHITE	UNREGISTERED
S450	2022	DIAMOND WHITE	UNREGISTERED
AMG GLC 43	2021	OBSIDIAN BLACK	REGISTERED
E220d	2019	CAVANSITE BLUE	REGISTERED
AMG A35	2021	COSMOS BLACK	REGISTERED

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